

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-12, 15, 16, and 18-26 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims serve to further clarify and distinguish the presently claimed invention. Support for “coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant” in the amended claim 1 can be found at page 5 in the specification. Support for the amended claims 15-16, 18-19, and 21 and new claims 24-26 can be found at pages 5-7 in the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been inserted into the application. Accordingly, entry of the amendments to the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Over Joslin (U.S. Patent No. 4,353,868)

Claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Joslin. Applicants traverse this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

In regard to claims 1, 2, 8, 12, and 22, in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-7, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation in claims 5-7, “coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant” into claim 1, which is believed to distinguish the presently claimed invention from Joslin. Therefore, it is believed that claims 2, 8, and 12, which are dependent from claim 1, are also distinguished from Joslin. Claims 13 and 17 have been canceled.

In regard to claims 13, 17, and 19-21, in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in claim 15, claims 19 and 21 have been amended to be dependent from claim 15, which has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim 13 as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is believed that the presently claimed invention according to the amended claims 19-21, which are dependent from the allowable claim 15, is

distinguished from Joslin. Claims 13 and 17 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is believed that Joslin fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Joslin in view of Sak (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161313)

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Joslin in view of Sak. Applicants traverse this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected for being dependent from rejected base claim 1. However, claim 1 has been amended to be in allowable form by incorporating the limitation in allowable claims 5-7 into claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that the presently claimed invention according to claims 10 and 11 is distinguished from Joslin and is not obvious over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7, 15, 16, 18, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the limitation in the allowable claims 5-7, "coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant" has been incorporated into claim 1 to amend claim 1 into allowable condition. Claims 15, 16, and 18 have been amended to place these claims in allowable form by incorporating all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims into claims 15, 16, and 18 as suggested by the Examiner. It is believed that claim 23

depending from base claim 1 is also allowable since claim 1 has been amended to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request the Examiner to issue a notice of Allowance in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to further the prosecution of the present invention.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge JHK Law's Deposit Account No. **502486** for any fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 and to credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. **502486**.

Respectfully submitted,

JHK Law

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